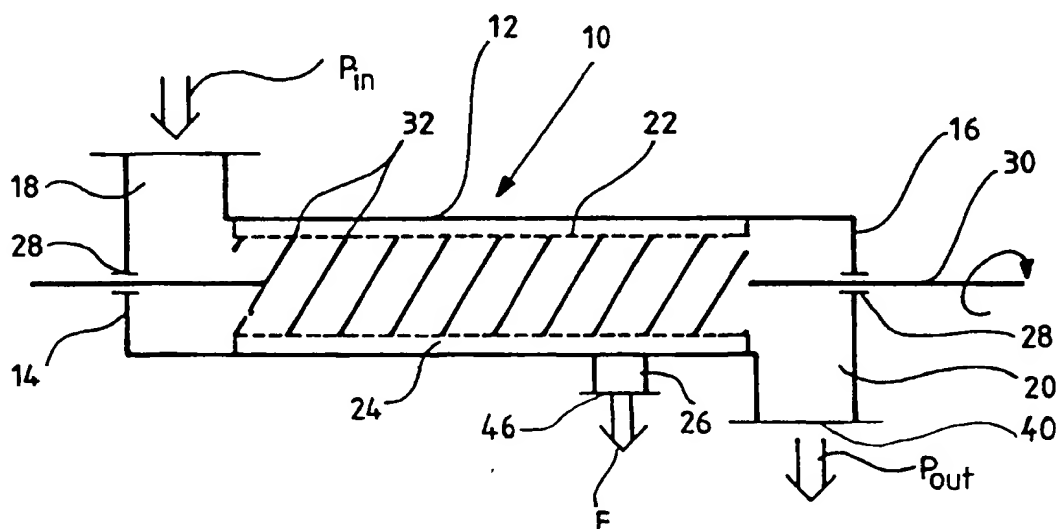


INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁷ : D21C 9/18, D21F 1/66		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/17443
			(43) International Publication Date: 30 March 2000 (30.03.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/FI99/00778		(81) Designated States: BR, CA, JP, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).	
(22) International Filing Date: 22 September 1999 (22.09.99)			
(30) Priority Data: 982043 23 September 1998 (23.09.98) FI 982565 26 November 1998 (26.11.98) FI		Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments. In English translation (filed in Finnish).</i>	
(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): AHLSTROM MACHINERY OY [FI/FI]; Sentnerikuja 2, FIN-00440 Helsinki (FI).			
(72) Inventors; and			
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): LAINE, Antero [FI/FI], Siltatie 1 D 33, FIN-48100 Kotka (FI), LJOKKOI, Risto [FI/FI], Alhonkatu 17, FIN-48600 Karhula (FI), PIKKA, Olavi [FI/FI], Alhonkatu 15, FIN-48600 Karhula (FI), SIIK, Sami [FI/FI], Kankaantie 117, FIN-48720 Kymi (FI), QVINTUS, Harri [FI/US], Ahlstrom Machinery Inc., Ridge Center, Glens Falls, NY 12801-3686 (US).			
(74) Agent: AHLSTROM MACHINERY OY; Patent Dept., P.O. Box 18, FIN-48601 Karhula (FI).			

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR THE THICKENING OF FIBER SUSPENSIONS



(57) Abstract

The present invention relates to the thickening of pulp suspensions. A low consistency pulp suspension is fed to a pre-thickener (10) through an inlet conduit (18). A layer of thickened pulp, formed on a filter surface (22), is pushed along the filter surface by a cleaning member to the discharge end of the pre-thickener and is discharged through the outlet (20). The cleaning member comprises a rotating shaft (30), on which shaft at least one screw thread (32) is fixed so as to leave a free space between the shaft and the screw thread. Essentially non-thickened pulp is allowed to flow through the apparatus via this space.